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report on order

of battle of the Bulgarian Army.

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The Bulgarian Armed Forces:The Ministry of National Defense:

1. The Bulgarian Army is under the control of the Ministry of National Defense. The Minister of National Defense is Lieut-General Panchevski. Under his command is a Vice-Minister and the Ministerial Council composed of officers of all the branches and arms of the armed forces.

2. The officers of the Ministerial Council are all above field grade rank and are known as Military Advisors. The General Staff of the Armed Forces is responsible to the above ministry.

Composition of the General Staff:

3. Chief of the General Staff is Lieut-General Asnen Grekov. The General Staff is composed of ranking officers of all the arms and services who are called Members of the General Staff.

4. The Chief of the Air Force and his staff are also members of the General Staff, as is the Chief of the Navy and his Staff.

5. The other members of the General Staff are:

a. The Inspector of Infantry.

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- b. The Inspector of Artillery.**
- c. The Inspector of Cavalry.**
- d. The Inspector of the Signal Corps.**
- e. The Inspector of the Corps of Engineers.**
- f. The Inspector of the Armored Corps.**
- g. The Inspector of the Quartermaster Corps.**
- h. The Inspector of the Mechanized Forces.**
- i. The Inspector of the Anti-Tank Artillery Corps.**
- j. The Inspector of the Medical Department.**
- k. The Inspector of the Veterinary Department.**
- l. The Inspector of the Judge Advocate General's Department.**

6. The three armies of the Bulgarian Armed Forces are under the command of the General Staff. The Bulgarian Armed Forces has about 175,000 - 200,000 officers and men. The frontier forces come under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior, but in an emergency the General Staff of the Armed Forces assumes tactical command of these forces.

Organization of an Army:

7. There are three armies in Bulgaria, I Army, II Army, and III Army respectively. Each Army is usually composed of:

- a. Three Infantry Divisions.**
- b. One Regiment of Heavy Artillery.**
- c. One Regiment of Engineers.**
- d. One Regiment of Signal Corps.**
- e. One Quartermaster Regiment.**

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- f. One Anti-tank Regiment.**
- g. One Brigade of Armored Units.**

Organization of the Infantry Division:

8. Each Division is composed of about 15,000 men and is organized into:

- a. Three Infantry Regiments.**
- b. One Artillery Regiment made up of Field Artillery, Mountain Artillery, A/T Artillery and A/A Artillery.**
- c. One Battalion of Engineers.**
- d. One Signals Battalion.**
- e. One Quartermaster Battalion.**
- f. One Radio Company.**
- g. One Transportation Company.**
- h. One Squadron of Cavalry (half of which is horse and the other half mechanized).**
- i. One Divisional Military Hospital.**
- j. Veterinary Service Hospital.**

Organization of the Infantry Regiment:

9. The strength of the infantry regiment comes to about 2,000 men of whom 90 to 100 are officers and 100 to 115 are platoon and staff non-commissioned officers.

10. The Regiment is composed of:

- a. Three Rifle Battalions.**
- b. One A/T Company with nine pieces of 45 mm. (USSR origin).**
- c. One Artillery Company with nine pieces of 76.2 mm. (USSR).**

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- d. One Mortar Company of six to nine mortars of 120 mm. (USSR origin).**
- e. One Engineers Platoon for bridge building, mine laying, demolitions and river crossings with rubber boats.**

Organization of the Infantry Battalion:

11. An infantry battalion is composed of about 650 to 700 officers and men, and is organized into:

- a. Three Rifle Companies.**
- b. One Heavy Machine Gun Company with nine machine guns of 7.62 mm. (USSR).**
- c. One Mortar Company with six mortars of 82 mm. (USSR).**
- d. One A/T Platoon with 45 mm. pieces (USSR).**
- e. One Signals Platoon using telephones and three portable radios with an effective radius of 15 kilometers.**

Organization of the Rifle Company:

12. The rifle company is composed of about 100 officers and men, and is broken down into the command element (the commanding officer four couriers, one radio operator) and three platoons.

13. The rifle platoon is composed of 33 men (three squads of 11 men). Each squad is equipped with four rifles (USSR), four sub-machine guns and a sniper's rifle with telescopic lens, and one light machine gun.

Organization of the Heavy Machine Gun Company:

14. The heavy machine gun company is composed of three platoons each having three machine guns, each manned by six men. Of these, one is the leader, one is the gunner, two are ammunition bearers and one is a muleteer.

Organization of the Mortar Company:

15. The mortar company is composed of the command element (the commanding officer, a non-commissioned officer who is the assistant

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gunnery officer, one is a telemetrist, one is a goniometrist, one is a telephone operator and one is a radio operator), and three platoons.

16. Each platoon is equipped with two or three mortars each, manned by five men of whom one is the leader, one is the gunner, one is the loader, two are ammunition bearers, and one is a muleteer.

Organization of the A/T Company:

17. The A/T Company is composed of the command element (the commanding officer, a telemetrist and three couriers), and three platoons.

18. Each platoon is equipped with two or three A/T guns manned by seven men, of whom one is the leader, one is a gunner, one is the loader, one is an ammunition bearer and two men handle horses. The A/T pieces are of USSR origin and can be motor or horse drawn.

Command Elements:

Army:

19. The Commanding Officer of an Army is a Major General or a Lieutenant-General.

20. There is a Political Director (commissar) attached to army headquarters and is known as Army Political Director.

21. The Chief of Staff is usually a Lieutenant-Colonel or a Colonel.

22. The remaining Staff is composed of officers of all the arms and services attached to an army and comes to about 30 officers.

Division:

23. The Commanding Officer is a Colonel or Major General.

24. There is a Divisional Political Director (commissar) and a Chief of Staff.

25. The rest of the Staff includes an operations officer, supply officer, intelligence officer, signals officer, veterinary officer, etc. The entire Staff comes to about 30 officers.

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Regiment:

26. The Commanding Officer is a Lieut-Colonel or a Colonel.
27. There is a Chief of Staff, an executive officer and a political director.
28. The rest of the Staff includes an adjutant, intelligence officer, signals officer. The entire Staff comes to about 20 officers.

Battalion:

29. The battalion Staff is organized similarly to the regimental Staff, but the Staff strength does not usually exceed 10 officers.

Company:

30. The company is composed of the Company Commander and three platoon leaders (officers).

Organization of the A/T Artillery Regiment:

31. The regimental Staff consists of the Commanding Officer who is a Lieut-Colonel or a Colonel, a political director (commissar), the Chief of Staff, an adjutant, the training officer, operations officer, intelligence officer, materiel supply officer, artillery supply officer, and a mobilization officer.
32. The Regimental Staff is composed of about 25 officers, 25 non-commissioned officers (ten to 12 clerks, radio operators, couriers, etc). There is also a motor pool and vehicle repair officer; his repair shop is attached to regimental headquarters.
33. During peacetime, the regiment is organized into three battalions of artillery, but during war-time the above three battalions are re-organized into four battalions, one of which is placed at the disposition of the division and is called the divisional A/T battalion. There is no battalion Staff.
34. The A/T battalion is composed of 15 officers, 20 non-commissioned officers and about 200 men. There are six or eight men manning each gun. The battalion has 30 couriers, 25 ammunition bearers, 30 muleteers and 20 truck drivers.

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35. Each battalion has 12 A/T guns of 60 mm. or 75 mm. caliber of German origin. (Usually the battalion has eight 60 mm. guns and four 75 mm. guns). The above guns are gradually being replaced by 76.2 mm. guns of USSR origin.

36. The battalion is also equipped with 12 caterpillar type prime movers to draw the guns. There are "Fort Kater" (sic) and are of German origin. The battalion also is equipped with eight trucks of three tons each, either Opels or Zis', four motorcycles and two personnel vehicles. The battalion is also equipped with a mechanized kitchen.

Small Arms Carried by Artillerymen:

37. Artillerymen are armed with rifles and sub-machine guns. There is a special security squad attached to each battery composed of four men who are equipped with one light machine gun and three sub-machine guns.

Bulgarian Army Units and Their Locations:

A.	<u>I Army</u>	Sofia
1.	a. Mechanized Artillery Regiment	- Sofia
	b. Signals Regiment	- Sofia
	c. Tank Regiment	- Sofia
	d. Mechanized Infantry Regiment	- Samokov
	e. Battalion of Engineers	- Sofia
	f. A/T Battalion	- Sofia
	g. Motorcycle Company	- Sofia
2.	Heavy Artillery Regiment of I Army	- Sofia
3.	Engineers Regiment of I Army	- Sofia
4.	A/T Regiment of I Army	- Kyustendil

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|-----|----------------------------------|---|---------------|
| 5. | Signals Regiment of I Army | - | Sofia |
| 6. | Quartermaster Regiment of I Army | - | Sofia |
| 7. | A/A Artillery Regiment of I Army | - | Sofia* |
| 8. | Headquarters 1 Armored Division | - | Sofia |
| 9. | <u>1 Infantry Division</u> | - | Sofia |
| | a. 1 Infantry Regiment | - | Sofia |
| | b. 6 Infantry Regiment | - | Sofia |
| | c. 25 Infantry Regiment | - | Slivnitsa** |
| | d. 4 Artillery Regiment | - | Sofia |
| 10. | <u>6 Infantry Division</u> | - | Vratsa |
| | a. 3 Infantry Regiment | - | Vidin |
| | b. 35 Infantry Regiment | - | Vratsa |
| | c. 6 Artillery Regiment | - | Vratsa |
| 11. | <u>7 Infantry Division</u> | - | Dupnitsa |
| | a. 14 Infantry Regiment | - | Gorna Djumaya |
| | b. 22 Infantry Regiment | - | Dupnitsa |
| | c. 39 Infantry Regiment | - | Nevrokop |
| | d. 7 Artillery Regiment | - | Samokov |

* In wartime, the regiment is divided into three battalions and are sent to each of the three armies.

** This regiment was scheduled to leave for Orhanie (X. 74-83).

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| B. | <u>II Army</u> | - | Plovdiv |
| 1. | <u>2 Armored Brigade</u> | - | Plovdiv |

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|----|---|-------------------------|
| a. | Mechanized Artillery Regiment | - Plovdiv |
| b. | Signals Regiment | - Plovdiv |
| c. | Tank Regiment (54 tanks, T-34s,
30 tons) | - Plovdiv |
| d. | Mechanized Infantry Regiment | - Plovdiv |
| e. | Battalion of Engineers | - Plovdiv |
| f. | A/T Battalion | - Plovdiv |
| g. | Motorcycle Company | - Plovdiv |
| 2. | Heavy Artillery Regiment of II Army | - Plovdiv |
| 3. | Mountain Artillery Regiment of II Army | - Assenovgrad |
| 4. | A/T Artillery Regiment of II Army | - Chirpan (RA
98-05) |
| 5. | Engineers Regiment of II Army | - Plovdiv |
| 6. | Signals Regiment of II Army | - Plovdiv |
| 7. | Quartermaster Regiment of II Army | - Plovdiv |
| 8. | <u>2 Infantry Division</u> | - Plovdiv |
| a. | 9 Infantry Regiment | - Plovdiv |
| b. | 27 Infantry Regiment | - Pazardjik |
| c. | 10 Infantry Regiment | - Kirdjali |
| d. | 2 Artillery Regiment | - Plovdiv |
| e. | Battalion of Engineers | - Peshtera |
| f. | Signals Battalion | - Plovdiv |
| g. | Quartermaster Battalion | - Plovdiv |

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| h. | Transportation Company | - | Plovdiv |
| 9. | <u>4 Infantry Division</u> | - | Haskovo |
| a. | 12 Infantry Regiment | - | Harmanli |
| b. | 30 Infantry Regiment | - | Simeonov-grad |
| c. | 23 Infantry Regiment | - | Haskovo |
| d. | 6 Artillery Regiment | - | Momchil-grad |
| e. | Battalion of Engineers | - | Haskovo |
| f. | Signals Battalion | - | Haskovo |
| g. | Quartermaster Battalion | - | Haskovo |
| h. | Transportation Company | - | Haskovo |

Note: 10 Division of II Army was deactivated, but it is said that it is being reorganized once more. the commanding officer of II Army is a Soviet General.

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| C. | <u>*III Army</u> | - | Sliven |
| 1. | 3 Armored Brigade | - | Sliven |
| 2. | Heavy Artillery Regiment of III Army | - | Shumen |
| 3. | A/T Artillery Regiment of III Army | - | Razgrad |
| 4. | Engineers Regiment of III Army | - | Shumen |
| 5. | Signals Regiment of III Army | - | Shumen |
| 6. | Quartermaster Regiment of III Army | - | Sliven |
| 7. | <u>3 Infantry Division</u> (formerly at Sliven) | - | Yambol |
| a. | 11 Infantry Regiment | - | Elhovo |
| b. | 29 Infantry Regiment | - | Yambol |

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| c. | 24 Infantry Regiment | - | Sliven |
| d. | 3 Artillery Regiment | - | Sliven |
| e. | Battalion of Engineers | - | Sliven |
| f. | Signals Battalion | - | Yambol |
| g. | Transportation Company | - | Sliven |
| 8. | <u>5 Infantry Division</u> | - | Russe |
| a. | 5 Infantry Regiment | - | Russe |
| b. | 7 Infantry Regiment | - | Russe |
| c. | 19 Infantry Regiment | - | Razgrad |
| d. | 8 Infantry Regiment | - | Dobrudja |
| e. | 5 Artillery Regiment | - | Russe |
| f. | Battalion of Engineers | - | Russe |
| g. | Signals Battalion | - | Russe |
| h. | Transportation Company | - | Russe |
| 9. | <u>1 Cavalry Division</u> | - | Yambol |
| a. | <u>1 Cavalry Brigade</u> | - | Yambol |
| | 4 Cavalry Regiment | - | Yambol |
| | 6 Cavalry Regiment | - | Yambol |
| b. | <u>2 Cavalry Brigade</u> | - | Dobrich |
| | 8 Cavalry Regiment | - | Dobrich |
| | 10 Cavalry Regiment | - | Dobrich |

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10. Armored Division - Kazanluk
- a. 2 Tank Regiment (140, T-34 Tanks) - Kazanluk
- b. 1 Mechanized Infantry Regiment - Kazanluk
- c. 1 Mobile Heavy Artillery Regiment - Kazanluk

* III Army is the strongest army. The Armored Division headquarters are located in Kazanluk.

Military Personalities:

38. Colonel Djurov (fnu). He is on the Staff of II Army. [REDACTED]

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39. Lieut-Colonel TENEV (fnu). He is the QM officer of 5 Division. [REDACTED]

40. Colonel Boyan Beanov. He is the QM officer of the GSC. He is a regular army officer.

41. Colonel Botev (fnu). He is the commanding officer of 5 Division. [REDACTED]

42. Lieut-General Slavcho Trunski. He is the commanding officer of III Army. [REDACTED]

43. Lieut-General Assen Grekov. Chief of the GSC. [REDACTED]

44. Colonel Stanchov Hadjiev. He is the commandant of the Vasillevski Military Academy in Sofia. [REDACTED]

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45. Lieut-General Tsonyu Ganev. He is the commandant of the "Hristo Botev" Reserve Officer Training School in Sofia.

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Recruitment - Military Service:

46. At the present time, the classes of 1926-1929 are in active service, but the class of 1930 will probably be called soon.

47. Those liable for military service receive individual orders to report for examination from the local civic authorities. The recruit-to-be is told to which military examining board he has to report. Usually, mobile military commissions examine prospective draftees if they come from isolated localities.

48. If the is found physically fit, he is ordered by the military authorities to report to a specific unit for training. Length of service is usually 24 months. During this period training is a continuing process.

49. The military recruiting bureaus assign a recruit to the arm or service that they feel the recruit is best fitted to serve. These bureaus are usually located in areas where regiments are stationed. There are no replacement or training centers as such, and even initial clothing issuances are undertaken by the unit to which the recruit is assigned.

Officer Training:

50. There are two officers training schools. One is the "Vasil Levski" Military Academy and the other is the "Hristo Botev" Reserve Officers Training School. Both are located in Sofia.

51. A Naval Academy is located at Varna.

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52. Training for regular officers lasts for three years and the curriculum includes both theoretical and practical training. For reserve officers, the training period is 16 months.

Enlisted Men's Schools:

53. There are no regular non-commissioned officers schools at the present time. However, special courses are given to non-commissioned officers which last for six months. Special courses are offered to non-commissioned officers in the Medical and Veterinary branches of the army.

USSR Participation in Training:

54. The commanding officers and most of the instructors at the Academies are Bulgarian officers, but Soviet officers participate as inspectors and advisors.

55. Soviet officers are attached as advisors in training and other fields to units above regimental level.

56. About 15 percent of the men graduating from the officers schools are sent to the USSR for advanced training. Usually those chosen are Communists of good standing and promise.

Discipline - Morale - Recreation:

57. Discipline is considered strict. Offenders are usually punished severely.

58. The morale of the army is considered good. The authorities expend much time and effort to maintain good living conditions for the troops.

59. Officers get twenty five days of leave per year and enlisted men get ten days. All military personnel are entitled to free medical attention. (Medical attention is also free for officers families).

60. Movie houses for officers and men exist on military posts. Concerts are regularly offered to the troops. Radios are also made available to units. Road companies give stage plays regularly. The plays are always propagandistic, and for troop consumption.

Pay - Allowances:

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- 61. The private receives 150 leva per month.**
- 62. Non-commissioned officer candidates receive 300 leva per month.**
- 63. Master Sergeants receive 6 - 10,000 leva per month according to time in service and family status.**
- 64. Warrant officers receive 8 - 10,000 leva per month.**
- 65. Second lieutenants receive 10 - 12,000 leva per month.**
- 66. First lieutenants receive 12,500 - 15,000 leva per month.**
- 67. Captains receive 15,000 leva per month.**
- 68. Majors receive 17,000 leva per month.**
- 69. Lieutenant Colonels receive 17 - 18,000 leva per month.**
- 70. Colonels receive 20 - 22,000 leva per month.**
- 71. Major Generals receive 25,000 leva per month.**
- 72. While the families of soldiers get no compensation whatsoever, the families of officers receive allowances and food.**

Food - Clothing - Shoes:

- 73. Officers are issued three types of uniforms. These are the dress uniform, the daily wear uniform and a field uniform (similar to that worn by enlisted men).**
- 74. Enlisted men receive a winter and a summer uniform. The infantry cavalry and artillery receive boots, while the armored, mechanized and the air force receive field shoes and long pants instead of the narrow-ankle pants of the above services.**
- 75. The enlisted men also receive one overcoat, two shirts, three undershirts, two underdrawers, one blanket, and two bed sheets. During the winter months, the soldier is issued two blankets.**
- 76. The enlisted men receive a daily ration of one kilogram of bread, three cigarettes, eight grams of soup, and a weekly ration of 150 grams of meat, which is served thrice weekly. Food is considered**

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satisfactory, if not ample. It is figured that the daily ration is worth 160 leva.

Types of Weapons:

77. Weapons of the Bulgarian Army are a mixture of German and USSR origin. The weapons of German origin are gradually being replaced by USSR weapons.

Infantry Weapons:

78. The weapons of the infantry are rifles, sub-machine guns, light machine guns, and heavy machine guns, (Maxim-Sokolov) and are all USSR weapons of 7.62 mm.

Artillery Weapons:

79. Mountain artillery pieces are Schneider and Skoda 75 mm. guns.

80. Divisional mountain artillery pieces are 105 mm.

81. Field artillery pieces are 125 mm. (German origin), and USSR pieces of undetermined caliber.

82. Heavy artillery pieces are 155 mm. (of German origin), 220 mm. (of both German and Soviet origin). There are also 250 mm. pieces used for coastal defense.

83. Anti-aircraft guns are of 85 mm. (of German origin), 75 mm. and 88 mm. (of German origin).

84. Anti-tank artillery pieces are 45 mm. (of USSR origin), 50 mm. (of German origin), 75 mm. (of German origin) and 76.2 mm. (of USSR origin) and 88 mm. (of German origin).

Armored Division Weapons:

85. The Bulgarian Army has German tanks mounting 75 mm. guns, and Soviet T-34, 30 ton tanks, mounting 76.2 mm. guns, and German tanks mounting 88 mm. guns.

86. The Soviet T-34 tanks have armor plating of about 15-20 mm. thickness, are equipped with two heavy machine guns, radio, and are powered by diesels of 500 or more horsepower. On highways, the T-34s

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can travel at speeds of 80 - 100 kilometers, while in open country they travel at 50 - 60 kilometers per hour.

Unit Patches and Military Markings:

87. Unit patches do not exist in the Bulgarian Army. Military vehicles do not carry regular military identification symbols or markings.

88. The various arms and services carry the following identifying colors:

- a. Infantry - Red shoulder straps and red collar tabs.
- b. Artillery - Red shoulder straps and black collar tabs.
- c. Cavalry - Red shoulder straps with a white border and red and white collar tabs.
- d. Armored forces - Black shoulder straps with red border.
- e. Medical corps - Purple shoulder straps.

Military Transport:

89. Military transport varies greatly and is abundant. Many of the recent trucks are of USSR origin. Each regiment has its own transportation unit.

Communications Equipment:

90. The Bulgarian Army is furnished with German and USSR radio equipment. On the other hand, telephones are mostly of German origin.

Military Warehouses and Factories Producing War Materiel:

91. Military warehouses exist only within organized units, usually of regimental strength and above.

92. There are war plants in Kazanluk and Sopot. Gunpowder and infantry and artillery ammunition is manufactured here as well as demolition equipment and materiel for the engineers.

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Permanent Installations:

In Sofia:

93. Artillery barracks are located four kilometers south of the city, on the Sofia - Istanbul road.
94. Engineers barracks are located at the northwest outskirts of the city.
95. Armored forces barracks are located in the old palace gardens near "Park Na Svoboda" (Liberty Park).
96. Infantry barracks are located at the inter-section of the Stalin-Tolbukhin-Fritov Nansen streets.
97. The barracks of the cavalry guards squadron are located on Vladimir Zaimov street near the Levski Monument.
98. The barracks which formerly housed 1 Artillery Regiment are located at "Slatevski Redut" (the heights of the city).

In Plovdiv:

99. The armored brigade barracks are located next to the cemetery, at the east end of the city.

In Sliven:

100. The barracks of units of III Army are located at the east end of the city and are clearly visible from the air.

In Shumen:

101. Barracks are located in the center of the city.

In Sveti Vrach

102. Barracks are located at the southeast end of the city and are clearly visible from the air.

In Gorna Djumaya:

103. Barracks are located at the southeastern end of the city on the Sveti Vrach road.

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The Air Force:

105. The Air Force is under the control of the GSC. The Chief of Staff of the Bulgarian Air Force is General Zaharev, a former war-rant officer in the army who was subsequently trained in the USSR.

106. There are airfields located in the following cities:

- a. Sofia, one at Buzhurishte and one at Vrazhdebna.
- b. Plovdiv (2).
- c. Gorna Orhovitsa.
- d. Karlovo.
- e. Varna.
- f. Burgas.
- g. Yambol.
- h. Balchik.
- i. Kazanluk.
- j. Sliven.

Armored Forces:

107. there are three armored brigades, one with each army, and one armored division under the command of III Army Headquarters. In wartime, the three brigades will be organized into

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divisions (they will have an additional tank regiment added), and the armored division will become the armored division of IV Army which will be mobilized in case of war.

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